

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5989

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 332

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAU, UNSC, CM

SUBJ: PRESIDENT AHIDJO ON CURRENT AFRICAN PROBLEMS

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 3270, (B) STATE 168584, (C) YAOUNDE 3053,
(D) STATE 155147, (E) STATE 153145

1. SUMMARY: IN EVENT HIS ABSENCE PRESIDENT AHIDJO DESIGNATED
PRESIDENCY SECRETARY GENERAL AS CONTACT POINT FOR FUTURE
CONSULTATIONS. HE NOT OPTIMISTIC ON AFRICAN DISPUTE
SETTLEMENT OF HELPFUL IN DEFINING PROPER U.S. ROLE. CURRENT
PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN ZAIRE VIEWED AS PRO-MOBUTU AND ANTI-
ANGOLAN. END SUMMARY.

2. I HAD REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT AHIDJO OVER
TWO WEEKS AGO IN ORDER RESPOND REFTTEL E. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT
VISITING HOMETOWN OF GAROUA AND UNABLE SEE ME UNTIL JULY 6.
I OPENED CONVERSATION BY NOTING THAT THERE NUMBER OCCASIONS
WHEN U.S. WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CAMEROONIAN VIEWS ON PENDING
ISSUES AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF HE COULD DESIGNATE SOMEONE
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WITH WHOM WE COULD DISCUSS MATTERS, PARTICULARLY IN HIS
ABSENCE. PRESIDENT STATED SAMUEL EBOUA, PRESIDENCY SECRETARY
GENERAL, WAS APPROPRIATE PERSON.

3. I THEN RAISED QUESTION OF PORPER ROLE WHICH NON-AFRICAN
COUNTRY LIKE U.S. CAN PLAY IN ASSISTING IN AFRICAN DISPUTE
SETTLEMENT. PRESIDENT AHIDJO SAID THAT OAU WAS APPROPRIATE

MECHANISM TO USE, BUT IT IS CURRENTLY TOO DIVIDED TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION ON DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. HE SAW THE HORN, WESTERN SAHARA, ZAIRE/ANGOLA AND CHAD PROBLEMS AS REQUIRING CONCERTED OAU ACTION, BUT DUE LACK OAU CONSENSUS THERE UNLIKELY BE ANY AGREED UPON COURSE OF ACTION COMING OUT OF KHARTOUM MEETING. HE NOTED LIBYA REMAINED KEY TO SOLUTION CHAD PROBLEM. WHEN I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT OAU COULD ADDRESS LONG TERM POLICY MATTERS SO AS TO AVOID AD HOC SOLUTIONS TO SHORT-TERM CRISES, AHIDJO NODDED AND OBSERVED THAT THERE WAS ABUNDANCE OF CRISES, AS IF TO SAY THERE WOULD BE NO LEISURE AT KHARTOUM TO CONSIDER LONGER-TERM ISSUES.

4. I ASKED HIM ABOUT THE TWO MEMBER ANGOLAN MISSION LED BY ALEXANDRE RODRIGUEZ OF MPLA CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH HE MET IN GAROUA ON JULY 2. AHIDJO SAID THAT ANGOLANS VIEWED MOBUTU AS ENCOURAGING CABINDA LIBERATION MOVEMENT AS WELL AS HARBORING FORCES IN OPPOSITION TO ANGOLA GOV'T ITSELF. FOR THESE REASONS THE ANGOLANS DARED NOT LET GO OF SOVIET/CUBAN MILITARY SUPPORT WHICH BALANCED THE UNFRIENDLY TROOPS ON SHABA FRONTIER SUPPORTED BY MOBUTU. HE SAID. "WHEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ACCEPTANCE OF SOME SORT OF NEUTRALIZING PEACE-KEEPING FORCE, HE INDICATED THAT THE ANGOLANS AND OTHER AFRICAN OBSERVERS, INCLUDING CAMEROON, VIEW THE PRESENT INTER-AFRICAN FORCE AS PRO-MOBUTU AND ANTI-ANGOLA. HE OBSERVED THAT AN INTER-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE SPONSORED

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BY THE OAU WAS NOT POSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES DUE DEEP DIVISIONS WITHIN ORGANIZATION. FINALLY, ON THE ANGOLAN MISSION, HE SAID THE MISSION TOLD HIM THAT ANGOLA ITSELF WOULD BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE, BUT THEY BELIEVED MOBUTU WOULD NOT. HE AGAIN ADDED THAT THIS WAS ANGOLAN MISSION VIEW AND HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR ITS ACCURACY.

5. COMMENT: PRESIDENT AHIDJO WAS HIS USUAL CAUTIOUS SELF, SHOWING RELUCTANCE EXPRESS HIMSELF ON THE MANY SUBJECTS FACING OAU. HE OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT THINK THERE MUCH PROSPECT OF OAU ACHIEVING PROGRESS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS AND HE PROBABLY ONLY HOPES THAT ADDITIONAL DAMAGE TO THE INSTITUTION CAN BE MINIMIZED. WHILE HE SHOWED NO ENTHUSIASM FOR UP-COMING MEETING, WE HAVE HEARD FROM WORKING LEVEL SOURCES IN MOFA THAT THEY ARE PREPARING FOR HIS ATTENDANCE AT KHARTOUM SUMMIT.

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